

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: D2011-305

Date: JAN 24 2012

In re: HAK TUNG LAM a.k.a. Ke Dong Lin, ATTORNEY

IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Rachel A. McCarthy, Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Jennifer J. Barnes, Disciplinary Counsel

The respondent will be disbarred from practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and Department of Homeland Security (the "DHS").

On November 22, 2011, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the respondent pled guilty to a "serious crime" within the meaning of 8 C.F.R. § 1003.102(h), relating to the respondent's immigration law practice. That is, the respondent pled guilty to the felony of bringing in and harboring aliens in the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) and 1324(a)(1)(A)(iv). Consequently, on December 7, 2011, the DHS initiated disciplinary proceedings against the respondent and petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the DHS. The Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) then asked that the respondent be similarly suspended from practice before EOIR, including the Board and Immigration Courts.

Therefore, on January 4, 2012, we suspended the respondent from practicing before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding.

The respondent was required to file a timely answer to the allegations contained in the Notice of Intent to Discipline. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105 (2012); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012). The respondent's failure to file a response within the time period prescribed in the Notice constitutes an admission of the allegations therein, and the respondent is now precluded from requesting a hearing on the matter. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(2012); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012).

The Notice of Intent to Discipline proposes that the respondent be expelled from practice before the DHS, and the Disciplinary Counsel for EOIR asks that we extend that discipline to practice before the Board and Immigration Courts as well. Under an interim rule effective immediately, the discipline of "expulsion" was replaced by the discipline of "disbarment". 8 C.F.R. § 1003.101(a)(1)(2012). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014 (Jan. 13, 2012). We find that the discipline of "disbarment" is not substantively different from the discipline of "expulsion", *see* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2013 (Jan. 13, 2012), and may be applied to cases brought by the DHS.

As the respondent failed to file a timely answer, the regulations direct us to adopt the proposed sanction contained in the Notice, unless there are considerations that compel us to digress from that proposal. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(2012); 8 C.F.R. § 292.3(e). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2014-15 (Jan. 13, 2012).

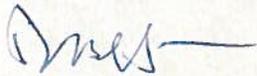
Since the proposed sanction is appropriate considering the respondent's "serious crime related to criminal and unprofessional conduct in his immigration law practice," Notice of Intent to Discipline, at ¶ 6, we will honor it. Accordingly, we hereby disbar the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. As the respondent is currently under our January 4, 2012, order of suspension, we will deem the respondent's disbarment to have commenced on that date.

ORDER: The Board hereby disbars the respondent from practice before the Board, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is instructed to maintain compliance with the directives set forth in our prior order. The respondent is also instructed to notify the Board of any further disciplinary action against him.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent may petition this Board for reinstatement to practice before the Board, Immigration Courts, and DHS under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.107(2012). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2015 (Jan. 13, 2012).

FURTHER ORDER: As the Board earlier imposed an immediate suspension order in this case, today's order of the Board becomes effective immediately. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.105(d)(2)(2012). *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2011, 2015 (Jan. 13, 2012).



FOR THE BOARD